Our Toronto

VOL. 5 **ISSUE 2** SUMMER 2012

Building a great city – together

The countdown to the 2012 Ontario Summer Games is on!

Cathy Vincelli, General Manager, 2012 Ontario Summer Games, with "Bruce the Moose", the official mascot for the Games, and Games Vice Chair Karen Pitts at the "100 days to go" event on May 9.

ORGANIZERS, volunteers, athletes and elected officials gathered on May 9 at Nathan Phillips Square to celebrate the 100-day countdown to the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Ontario Summer Games. The City of Toronto is hosting the Games, Ontario's largest multi-sport competition, from August 16 to 19, with some pre-opening events on August 14, 15 and 16.

The Games will bring together about 2,500 amateur athletes competing in 28 sports. Venues are spread across Toronto and the surrounding regions of Brampton, Caledon, Oshawa, St. Catharines and Welland. For many young athletes, this multi-sport competition serves as a stepping-stone to national and international competitions.

At the 100-day countdown event, supporters got their first glimpse of Bruce the Moose, the 2012 Games' official mascot. Designs for the 2012 medals were also revealed and all-access commemorative pins to the Opening Ceremony and all 28 sporting events went on sale for $25 on the Games website. In the spirit of the Games, Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday and Toronto City Councillors participated in a ball hockey skills challenge.

The City of Toronto is hosting the Games in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Sport Alliance Ontario, the Toronto Sports Council and Tourism Toronto.

2012ontariosummergames.ca

OUR**CITY** OUR**FUTURE**

TORONTO OFFICIAL PLAN AND MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE REVIEWS

Help shape your city – planning Toronto's future

RESIDENTS and business owners share a common interest in ensuring Toronto continues to be an attractive place in which to live, work, invest and play. The City of Toronto's Official Plan is the main policy document that manages and directs physical change in the city in the years ahead.

At the same time as the City reviews its Official Plan, it is also undertaking a Municipal Comprehensive Review under the Provincial Growth Plan, looking specifically at designated areas of employment in the Official Plan. Both reviews focus on how and where Toronto will grow.

Public consultation is an important part of the review process. Stage One consultations took place from September through December 2011. Torontonians of all ages participated in open houses, completed surveys, sent comments and shared their ideas on city building. The high level of public engagement reflects people's interest and passion for how their city grows. People are generally pleased with the direction Toronto is taking in city building, but they do have suggestions for improving how Toronto will grow in the years ahead.

Public feedback, along with research on specific topics such as growth trends and heritage, is helping to identify proposed changes to the Official Plan. When Stage Two consultations begin in the summer and fall 2012, they will consider the City's heritage policies. Stage Two consultations will continue into 2013. Consultations will include online and public meeting formats.

Join the conversation. At the web page below, you can watch videos, subscribe to e-updates, meeting announcements and more. This site is your portal for learning about and getting involved in the reviews.

toronto.ca/opreview

Summer on the waterfront

WHILE construction is underway to transform Queens Quay into a Toronto showpiece, the waterfront is still full of activities this summer! Take a boat cruise on Lake Ontario or rent a bike. Explore some of the waterfront gems, including Canada's Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Common, Toronto islands, the Music Garden or HTO parks. Attractions such as Centreville for kids and PawsWay for pets all have full seasons planned, while the schedule at Harbourfront Centre includes free weekly movies, dancing and performances. Special events in 2012 include the return of the Redpath Waterfront Festival (June 21 to 24) as well as lots of excitement for the June War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Launch at Fort York. While down at the waterfront, be sure to take in the summer long "Toronto on the Water" historic photo exhibit at Queen's Quay Terminal and don't forget to look out for the a cappella singing Waterfront Ambassadors and participate in the Business Improvement Area-hosted My Waterfront Photo contest, running in July.

waterfrontoronto.ca
waterfrontbia.com

Our Toronto

Building a great city – together

Our Toronto is distributed to every household in the city. Fully-accessible PDF and audio versions are also available on the City's website (toronto.ca/ourtoronto). You can read it online in the languages listed below, or contact us to have a printed copy in your language mailed to you. Call, write or email to have a Braille or large print version mailed to you.

Vous trouverez ce journal en français au site web ci-dessous. (French)

在以下所示網站上有繁體版的中文版本。 (Chinese)

இந்தச் செய்தித்தாளின் தமிழ்ப் பிரதியை இணையத் தளத்தில் இங்கே பெறலாம். (Tamil)

Questo giornale è disponibile in italiano sul sito Web che segue. (Italian)

Este periódico está disponible en español en el sitio web indicado abajo. (Spanish)

Este jornal está disponível em português no sítio Web abaixo indicado. (Portuguese)

Makikita ang Tagalog na edisyon ng pahayagang ito sa website sa ibaba. (Tagalog)

یہ اخبار ہیٹے کی گئی ویب سائٹ پر اردو زبان میں دستیاب ہے۔ (Urdu)

Данная газета на русском языке имеется на нижеуказанном веб-сайте. (Russian)

این نشریه به فرمی فارسی قابل دسترسی میباشد (Farsi)

이 신문은 아래의 웹 사이트에서 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. (Korean)

toronto.ca/ourtoronto

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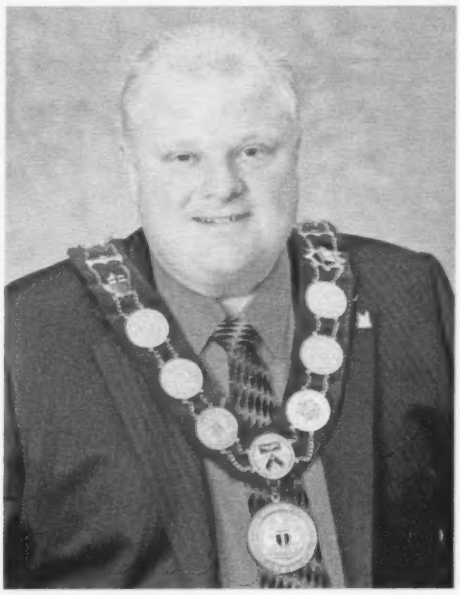
Because we care
The printing of *Our Toronto* meets the highest environmental standards. The paper contains 100% recycled fibre and is printed using vegetable inks. Printing is done by a print shop that is Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified.

A message from Mayor Rob Ford

Dear Friends:



A little over a year ago we set out to rebuild Toronto's fiscal foundation. For too long Toronto has relied on unpredictable surplus funds, one time envelopes of money from other levels of government and tax increases to cover the City's financial obligations.

However, Council undertook a number of measures to get our spending under control. This included the most comprehensive review of services in Toronto's history, two responsible and reasonable budgets and labour agreements with City workers that are fair to employees and the taxpayer.

Toronto now finds itself at a point where its spending is manageable. For the first time, Toronto will spend less money this year than it did the year before and its opening budget pressures are significantly less.

This is great news, but there is still work to do. We must continue our disciplined approach to cost control – using the same prudent measures you use at home. If we don't need it, we won't buy it. By purchasing responsibly and avoiding waste, we will continue to reduce our costs. This way, we can reduce our borrowing needs and still invest in important capital projects like road improvements to reduce gridlock, park renewal and recreation infrastructure. These are the things that can improve your everyday quality of life.

In June, I launched the development of a major new Economic Strategy to help make Toronto the world's first choice as a city in which to live, invest and thrive. Toronto is consistently behind the national average in employment, so our Economic Strategy will include measures to encourage the creation of 50,000 new jobs over the next five years. To do this, we need to make Toronto more cost competitive for employers, and affordable and attractive for residents.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Rob Ford

toronto.ca/mayor_ford

Pan Am Games aquatic centre rendering

AS Host City of the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, Toronto has a special role to play as we prepare to welcome athletes and visitors from across the Americas. In preparation for the Games, work is underway on a new high-performance aquatics and athletics facility in Scarborough. Jointly owned by the City and the University of Toronto, this multipurpose facility will be constructed on the University of Toronto Scarborough campus. Following the Games, the facility will provide much-needed community recreation space and will be a venue for high-performance and university sports.

Fostering innovation through business incubation

GETTING a business started can often be the hardest part of running a business. To make it a little easier, the City of Toronto has a Business Incubation & Commercialization Program that collaborates with organizations to support small businesses in their growth and development.

The program promotes entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation by supporting the establishment, maintenance and/or expansion of business incubators across the city.

The City of Toronto is a leader in business incubation, providing financial and professional support to several organizations across the city, including the Toronto Food Business Incubator, Toronto Business Development Centre and internationally acclaimed Toronto Fashion Incubator, which just celebrated 25 years of operation.

In addition to providing strategic support for new businesses, incubators also help increase Toronto's competitive advantage both locally and globally and are a key part of the City's economic growth strategy.

toronto.ca/business_resources/business_incubation.htm

Podcast!

RESIDENTS can now catch up on City Hall news by listening to a podcast. Current podcasts include Council Highlights (an informal summary of Council decisions), Toronto in review (a weekly round-up of news out of City Hall), and the latest edition of Our Toronto. You can subscribe to a notification service through the City's RSS feed.

toronto.ca/podcasts

The Office of Emergency Management – what we do

The Emergency Operations Centre during training

THE Office of Emergency Management (OEM) helps the City and its residents prepare for and deal with major emergencies. OEM staff work closely with Toronto's emergency responders and key City divisions to prepare for and manage emergency situations.

In order to be ready for any emergency, it is critical that City staff have a sound understanding and ability to execute their emergency response and recovery roles. This is achieved by careful planning, consistent training and holding frequent exercises to test the essential components of emergency preparedness.

In October 2011, approximately 60 City staff participated in Exercise Compass Rose, a full-day exercise to test the City's Emergency Plan. The exercise scenario involved a number of hypothetical emergencies at multiple locations across Toronto, indicating possible terrorist activities. Throughout the day, participants were provided with numerous pieces of information designed to simulate how an actual event might unfold. The purpose was not to test individuals, but to test the processes in place that help the City deal with significant crises.

In addition to preparing the Toronto Public Service, the OEM's public education program helps residents 'Get Emergency Ready' with tips and information on how they can prepare for themselves and their families.

toronto.ca/oem Twitter @torontoOEM

From the office of the Ombudsman

"Your commitment to helping citizens of this City weather the crisis in their lives is appreciated by all who benefit from local services." Ms. A

"On behalf of my family & myself, I want to thank you very much for your role in assisting us to resolve our dispute & issues." — Mr. T

MS. A and Mr. T are just two of the 1,500 or so residents who seek out the Ombudsman every year. And while solving peoples' individual problems is important, Ombudsman Fiona Crean says that's just the beginning of the job.

Systemic problems can often be at the root of a person's problem. By getting the rules or procedures changed, the office is fixing problems for many more people than just the resident who complained. And, coincidentally, ensuring services are delivered more efficiently.

The Ombudsman looks at the following sorts of questions: Was the resident treated fairly? Did City staff have all the information before they made their decision? Were the rules followed consistently? Were there unnecessary delays?

The Ombudsman is encouraging residents to come forward if they have been unable to get their problems fixed at City Hall. Services are free and confidential.

ombudstoronto.ca
375 University Ave. 2nd floor
416-392-7062
ombuds@toronto.ca

Office of the OMBUDSMAN

Don't Wait and See with a child's development!

BY 18 months, a child should be able to say 20 words or more, point to at least three body parts when asked, walk on their own and show affection for people, pets or toys. At 18 months, it is important for all children to have a well-baby check up with a doctor or nurse practitioner to examine their development. If there are any developmental issues, the earlier they are diagnosed, the better. This will have a major impact on improving a child's ability to learn at school and on improving their long-term developmental outcomes. If you have questions about a child's development, or for more information, please call Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 or CITYKIDS at 416-920-6543.

toronto.ca/health

Jamie Bell playgro

ON May 18, the City of Toronto announced that Mike Holmes and his team from the HGTV Canada show "Holmes Makes it Right" would be rebuilding High Park's Jamie Bell Playground, which was damaged by a fire this spring. The playground will be rebuilt by July 7. All funding for the rebuild was provided by corporate donations from Canadian Tire, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and the TD Bank Group. The Sprott Foundation also announced they would match public donations up to $30,000. Donations can be made through the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation at torontoparksandtrees.org.

New rules for the safety and enjoyment of local parks

TORONTO City Council has made several notable amendments to the bylaw that governs the use of local parks. These changes are designed to improve safety and ensure that everyone can enjoy our public spaces.

Here are the highlights:

- You can't plant, tie, bury, insert or place anything that can harm a person or property.
- Don't remove, cut or injure a tree.
- You need a permit and an extinguisher to light a fire or use a portable barbeque.
- Taking public property such as a sign or a bench without permission is theft.
- You need a permit to store a boat or trailer in a public park. The same thing applies to mooring and anchoring.
- Possession and sale of alcohol requires a local and a provincial permit.
- You need a permit to conduct business of any kind in a public park.

And last, but not least...

- If you live nearby, don't drain any water from your pool, sewer, or eavestrough into the park. Doing so kills vegetation and causes soil erosion.

If you want to read the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 608 Parks, it's located at:

toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_608.pdf • 416-392-8188 • parks@toronto.ca

Toronto Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service

FIREFIGHTERS, families and friends gathered for the Toronto Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service on June 3 at Fire Station 334, 339 Queens Quay W. The annual service commemorates the 230 firefighters who have died in the performance of their duties since 1848.

The service included words of encouragement and presentation of wreaths by senior representatives from the City of Toronto, Toronto Fire Services and the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association. This year, there were eight additions to the Honour Roll, due to line of duty deaths or work-related disease.

Spring/Summer water tips

Drinking water quality

LOOKING forward to summer sun and all the fun that goes with it? Don't forget to stay cool! By using a refillable bottle, you can stay hydrated on the go. Toronto's tap water is an affordable and easy way to stay cool all summer long. Look for the H2O to go Water Trailer at a public event near you – fill up your bottle with quality municipal tap water and learn more about Toronto Water services and programs.

toronto.ca/water/supply/index.htm

Gardening and lawn work

- Water in the early morning to reduce water lost to evaporation.
- Let water soak in – don't apply water faster than your soil can soak it up. If water is running off your lawn, it's time to stop.
- Lawns only need about 2.5 cm (about 1 inch) of water once a week – use a rain gauge to keep track.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways clean instead of using a running hose.
- Disconnect your downspouts from the sewer system and use the rainwater to water your grass and gardens. This job can be made easier if you install a rain barrel.

toronto.ca/watereff/landscaping.htm

Car washing

The dirt on cars can contain toxic chemicals, heavy metals, oil and grease. When you wash a car in your driveway or on the street, that dirty water runs into the storm sewers and straight into local waterways. To avoid having dirty water run into the storm sewer system, consider these options for washing your car:

- Use a commercial car wash facility (coin or automatic). These facilities are required to follow a set of practices determined by the City, including treating wastewater and discharging it into the sanitary sewer system where it will receive further treatment.
- Dispose of the wastewater into the sanitary sewer. By using a pail, washcloth and only a small amount of water and then wiping the car dry, the wastewater can be contained in the bucket and disposed of into the sanitary sewer through a laundry sink or toilet. Doing this means the wastewater will be treated at a wastewater treatment plant.
- Find a location where the wastewater won't flow into the storm sewer. For example, washing and rinsing your car on gravel (or other porous surface) allows the wastewater to be absorbed.

All of these options will help protect public health and aquatic environments from the harmful effects of dirty water entering the storm sewers.

toronto.ca/water

New timing for delivery of garbage/recycling collection calendar

THE City is changing how your curbside collection calendar is delivered. In late July or early August, you will receive your new calendar through Canada Post. Mailing the calendar allows for faster, more accurate delivery, and permits us to switch to a 12-month calendar. The new calendar starts with September 2012 and ends with August 2013.

Your collection calendar is an important reference guide for recycling dos and don'ts, collection and correct set-out tips, and proper disposal of household hazardous waste.

There are nine versions of the calendar reflecting different collection schedules. Using online maps, you can determine your local schedule. Full calendars and one-page collection schedules are also available online.

toronto.ca/recycle

Volunteers honoured

VOLUNTEER Week, April 15-29, is an opportunity to recognize many people in our communities for their commitment to enhancing the lives of others. At an event on April 20, 39 volunteers with the City's long-term-care homes received Excellence in Volunteering awards at Toronto City Hall.

There are approximately 2,400 Long-Term Care Homes & Services volunteers who regularly visit residents and support a wide range of services, including arts and gardening programs, therapeutic programs, cultural and religious activities and special events. In 2011, these volunteers contributed more than 137,000 hours of service. This accounts for an average of over 50 hours of volunteer time per resident.

Some of the volunteers who were recognized at the event included: John Baltus, Vishnu Joshi and Anthony Sudlow, who ensure residents get to their physiotherapy appointments; Lina Scarpino, a 40-year veteran of the volunteer program; Sandra Kerr and Lynda Del Grande, for coordinating the Caring Clown program; and Carol Robson, a resident at Kipling Acres, who received the Mary Ellen Glover Award for advocacy and support of her fellow residents.

toronto.ca/ltc/volunteer

Rexdale Community Hub now open

EARLIER this spring, the Rexdale Community Hub opened its doors, providing better access to an under-resourced Toronto neighbourhood. Located at 21 Panorama Court, inside the former Father Henry Carr High School, the Hub is a one-stop shop for a wide range of community and health services, including newcomer settlement, employment, community legal, multi-media and printing. There are also activities and programs for seniors, children and youth, as well as cultural programs and activities that reflect the diversity of the neighbourhood.

Even though construction is still ongoing in some sections, local residents already feel right at home. Residents were involved in making decisions about the Hub in order to ensure the programs and services are responsive and relevant.

When construction is completed, there will be space for a community health clinic, Legal Aid and a community kitchen.

416-741-3000

Search, Upload, Share, Conserve

THE Living City Foundation has established The Living City Explorer™ – a new location-based search tool that allows users to search out local green projects located in their communities – including hiking trails, events, volunteer opportunities, sights and other points of interest. Starting with a map feature, the website allows for easy navigation and includes images and descriptions of notable locations and projects throughout the city.

The site also allows users to upload their own images and captions on the map, and share their own green experiences and activities, whether it is a view of the rocky beach at Humber Bay Park, a flood protection landform in south Etobicoke, an ancient tree from the Parkdale Golf Course, or a windy day on the sloping Scarborough Bluffs.

The Living City Foundation supports the work of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA.) With over 50 years of experience, TRCA helps people understand, enjoy and look after the natural environment. Their shared vision is for a cleaner, greener and healthier place to live, today and for tomorrow.

explore.thelivingcity.org

911=Emergency in any language

911 = 紧急求助电话 911 = СЛУЖБЫ СПАСЕНИЯ

911 = اورژانس و اضطراری

TORONTO

EVERYONE in Toronto's diverse communities has access to life-saving 9-1-1 emergency services in more than 170 languages. Services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Visitors and residents can call 9-1-1 for help no matter what language they speak. 9-1-1 call-takers from Toronto Emergency Medical Services, Toronto Police Services and Toronto Fire Services have instant access to interpretation in more than 170 languages.

In 2011, Toronto Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received over 2,500 calls for medical help that required an interpreter. They were able to respond to those calls in 31 languages other than English. The 15 most frequently used languages were Cantonese, Hungarian, Farsi, Korean, Russian, Mandarin, Italian, Portuguese, Tamil, Greek, Vietnamese, Spanish, Polish and Somali.

HOW does it work?

1. Call 9-1-1.
2. The call-taker will ask you what language you speak.
3. Tell the call-taker the language you want to speak, say "Spanish" instead of "Espanol" if possible.
4. Wait for the call-taker to connect you to the translator.
5. Answer the questions in your preferred language.

toronto.ca/emerg/911.htm

To read this article in French, Chinese, Tamil, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Urdu, Russian, Farsi, or Korean, go to our web page: **toronto.ca/ourtoronto.**

Automated External Defibrillator helps to save student's life

FRIDAY, April 13 started as a regular day at Weston Collegiate Institute for 18-year-old Grade 12 student Ajethan Ramachandranathan. By day's end, 13 would be his lucky number!

Ajethan was in gym class when he collapsed from cardiac arrest. Fortunately, in 2007, Weston C. I. was the recipient of one of 120 Mikey Network defibrillators supported by the Toronto Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Safe City Program training.

All the preparation worked perfectly when teacher Jeff Crewe's quick thinking and training in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) were used to help the stricken student.

Mr. Crewe started CPR and administered the required shock using an AED, then passed the student's care to Toronto EMS paramedics Charlene Haines and Kimberly Clarence. They worked together to revive the teen, quickly taking him to hospital where he made a full recovery.

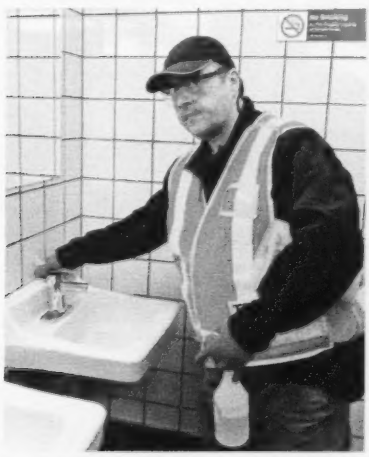
L to R: Ajethan Ramachandranathan, classmate Lisa Huynh, and Toronto EMS Safe City Program Commander Gayle Pollock

Toronto EMS Safe City Program trains over 13,000 Toronto residents a year in CPR and AED use. Contact Toronto EMS if you are interested in learning more.

torontoemssafecity.com
416-392-9833 • emscpr@toronto.ca

The cleaner, better way

AT the Toronto Transit Commission's first town hall meeting last year, the public shared its concern about the state of the TTC's washroom facilities. In response, the TTC has launched a number of new customer service initiatives dealing with cleanliness and improved customer service.



All subway station washrooms are being gutted and re-modelled. On March 14, TTC Chair Karen Stintz showcased the refurbished washroom facility at Finch station.

There will also be a more intense effort to keep the washrooms spic-and-span, with a pilot clean every 90 minutes and a power wash five times per week.

Not only are the washrooms getting cleaner, so are the trains.

In March, the TTC launched a new program in which TTC workers board subway trains at Kennedy and Finch stations, clearing them of litter before they go back into service. Newspapers, coffee cups and other debris will be removed. Crews will also have a mop on standby to clean up any spills.

The TTC has also extended its hours of operation for customers who call for information, to share a concern, or to offer a compliment about transit. TTC customer service representatives are now available to handle telephone inquiries seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (improved from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays only).

In addition, TTC staff will be responding to tweets sent to @TTChelps. The TTC will continue to issue service alerts on Twitter via @TTCnotices. To register to receive service alerts, visit ttc.ca and click on My TTC e-Services. Customer service staff will monitor that account and respond to questions via @TTChelps. As well, staff will continue to reply to emails sent using the web-based form at ttc.ca.

ttc.ca
Twitter @TTChelps • Twitter @TTCnotices

More overhead signs keep drivers better informed

THE City of Toronto is installing more overhead changeable message signs on city roads to help keep traffic moving and improve driver safety.

Six new signs will be installed in 2012 and an additional eight will be erected in 2013 on Lake Shore Boulevard and the Gardiner Expressway.

The signs are part of the City's Intelligent Transportation System, known as Road Emergency Services Communications Unit (RESCU). The system has 73 traffic cameras, 852 vehicle detector stations, six overhead message signs and 18 portable message signs. RESCU detects disruptions to traffic flow along the Don Valley Parkway, Gardiner Expressway, Lake Shore Boulevard and Allen Road.

When the flow of traffic is disrupted on a roadway, RESCU operators notify emergency services to any potential action and change messages on the overhead signs to provide current traffic flow information to road users.

In addition to providing timely information on emergencies, the signs also update motorists on traffic congestion and planned closures, enabling motorists to make decisions to avoid delays.

The goal of the RESCU system is to reduce the number of collisions through early detection of roadway incidents and to improve the movement of people and goods on our roads.

With the introduction of these new changeable message signs, the system will be better able to provide timely information to motorists as they travel through the city.

toronto.ca/transportation

City makes it easier to access road construction information

DO you want to find out about construction in your neighbourhood? We've got a map for that.

The City of Toronto is making it easier for you to find out about long-term, planned construction that will occur in your neighbourhood, with a new web-based mapping tool.

The map will allow users to quickly see major projects that are planned for 2012 across the city. It will also provide details about the type of work as well as contacts for further information.

The tool, called T.O. INview (short for Infrastructure Viewer), can be accessed by clicking on www.toronto.ca/inview.

In addition to providing details about individual projects that will be constructed by the City, transit agencies and major utilities, the system will be used to improve coordination of projects, with the goal of more efficient capital spending and less inconvenience for the public.

While the new site will feature planned infrastructure construction, it won't show emergency or short-term work. To find this information, click on the toronto.ca/torontostreets – the City's road restrictions web page. It's a great place to find out about short-term construction and special events that affect our roads so that you can make your travel plans.

toronto.ca/inview
toronto.ca/torontostreets

Historic lounge makes a glamorous comeback

Many of the original architectural and design elements were kept in the new design because of their heritage value.

THE Panorama Lounge, whose history goes back to 1927, makes a glamorous comeback at Union Station, boasting many of the original architectural and design elements and the latest in electronic gadgetry.

Located on the ground floor of the west wing, which is now under major renovation, the 630-square-metre Panorama Lounge marks the first piece of heritage restoration and improved infrastructure, and is the first completed component in Union Station's revitalization. The City of Toronto and its funding partners, Transport Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and VIA Rail, commemorated the opening on May 24.

Panorama Lounge was originally a public lunchroom that later became the Front Street Bar 'n Grill. It now mixes old with new. Marble-covered walls, plaster ceilings and cornice detailing give the room its old-world character, while modern amenities include Wi-Fi and flat screen televisions.

Union Station's revitalization is a five-year, $640-million initiative. The City is leading the project with three objectives: to promote the station as a multimodal transportation hub with improvements in the quality and capacity of pedestrian movement; to restore heritage elements; and to transform the station into a modern destination for shopping, dining and visiting.

toronto.ca/union_station
Facebook.com/UnionStationTO • Twitter.@unionstationTO

Consider being a foster parent for a pet in need

TORONTO Animal Services is always seeking foster parents to provide temporary homes to animals that need extra care and growth outside of the shelter. The care provided by a foster parent prepares the animal for adoption.

Tridelle, a three-year-old domestic short-haired female cat was hit by a car earlier this year. Toronto Animal Services was called to the scene, and rushed Tridelle to the veterinary clinic, where she was assessed and a difficult decision was made to amputate her right hind leg. Her owner didn't come to claim her, so Tridelle required a new home.

But before she could be put up for adoption, Tridelle needed a foster parent to care for her. She needed more attention than she could receive in the shelter, so she was placed in a foster home for the duration of her recovery.

Every foster parent receives a comprehensive package of materials that ensures they have a successful and enjoyable experience. All items needed to care for the foster animal – such as food, kitty litter and medical care – is provided by Toronto Animal Services.

The ownership of the animal stays with Toronto Animal Services. The only obligation on the part of the foster parent is to provide a temporary loving, caring environment for the animal. There is no obligation to adopt the animal after the fostering period.

Working with foster parents helps Toronto Animal Services ensure that as many animals as possible get into permanent homes.

If you, or someone you know, would like to foster kittens or a mother cat and her kittens or if you want to find out how you can help Toronto's homeless animals, please contact us.

toronto.ca/animalservices
416-338-PAWS (7297)

Film industry and residents: a hidden partnership that brings value

On location with the cast and crew of *Flashpoint*

TORONTO residents and businesses have been part of an emerging economic boom in the midst of tough times. The ongoing cooperation of residents and business owners in sharing the use of our streets, parks and buildings has assisted the screen-based industries (film, television, commercial production and interactive digital media) to achieve a 22.4 per cent growth in total spending over the past two years. In 2011, more than $1.13 billion was directly deposited into the city's economy. The benefit of this partnership is more than just monetary – more than 25,000 residents make their living from this important sector.

Staff in a number of City divisions work to coordinate filming and ease the impact on everyone as the trucks, lights and cameras hit Toronto streets at an average of 15 locations every day.

Every Torontonian can feel pride when they recognize a street from the movie *RED*, tall buildings as the backdrop of the apocalypse in *Resident Evil*, the hockey arena in *Breakaway*, *Hockey the Musical* and *Goon*, or the location of a dramatic hostage rescue from *Flashpoint*. Coming soon to a theatre near you will be *Total Recall*, where Toronto stood in for the Earth of the future.

toronto.ca/tfto
416-338-3456 (FILM)

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAYS

DO your part to create a cleaner, greener Toronto. Bring used or unwanted household items to any Community Environment Day event. For event dates, locations and a detailed list of items you can take to and get from the event, visit the Community Environment Day web page or call 311.

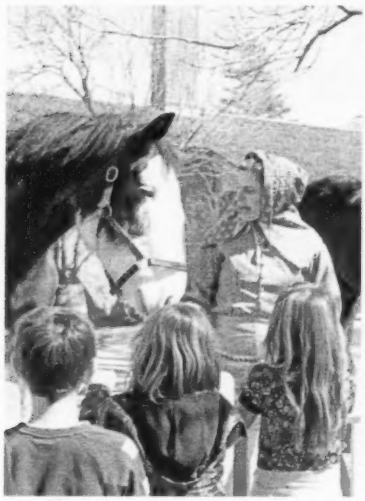
toronto.ca/environment_days

The Emerald Ash Borer will destroy an estimated 860,000 ash trees in Toronto by 2017. Will your ash tree be one of them?

Find out more at: toronto.ca/eab

TORONTO

New activities and events at Black Creek Pioneer Village



BLACK Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto's largest outdoor history experience, will be holding several new activities and special events at the Village this summer. The events and activities will educate, entertain and inspire visitors to walk through history and immerse themselves in a completely interactive way of learning about Toronto's pioneering roots. This summer, children 15 and under will get free admission in July and August. A parent or guardian must accompany children.

New activities scheduled for this year include: spending the day as a Blacksmith, Tinsmith, Printer, or Harness Maker Apprentice (pre-registration required); playing cricket with the Village Team (July 15 & 22); and a masquerade ball (August 12 & 19). Summer-long activities include participating in pioneer chores such as making candles or teasing wool; visiting travelling actors and taking lessons in stagecraft; learning the latest dances and hearing songs of the 1860s; and a new craft corner in the Hands on History Centre, where kids can make a pioneer craft to take home.

Quilts at the Creek is a new event this summer (July 28-29). Come and see the Village as you've never seen it before – covered in handmade quilts! Learn how quilts are made and participate in fun quilting activities for the whole family.

blackcreek.ca

A musket volley on Simcoe Day at Fort York

THE Fort York National Historic Site continues to be a key focus for Toronto's ongoing War of 1812 Bicentennial commemoration this summer. On July 14, Fort York will celebrate 200 years of peace with the United States with a free concert. Taking place at the Fort's Garrison Common, it will feature performances by internationally known Canadian artists Sarah Harmer, Shad and Alex Cuba. The Civic Holiday on August 6, known as Simcoe Day, will also be a busy day of activities at the Fort, as it acknowledges the Fort's founder and Upper Canada's first Lieutenant-Governor, John Graves Simcoe.

Open until September, a Market Gallery exhibition called 'Finding the Fallen: The Battle of York Remembered' identifies all the combatants who died in the Battle of York (April 27, 1813). Their names are recorded in a newly commissioned Book of Remembrance and their sacrifices are brought to life through artefacts, custom-designed maps and first-person accounts. All of these events are part of Toronto's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration, which includes more than 100 events in 2012 and 2013.

toronto.ca/1812

Toronto Public Library and the joy of reading

Free summer activities for kids, teens and the whole family

ARE you looking for a way to keep your kids engaged in the joy of reading during the summer break? Look no further – Toronto Public Library is offering fun and affordable (free!) activities online and in local library branches.

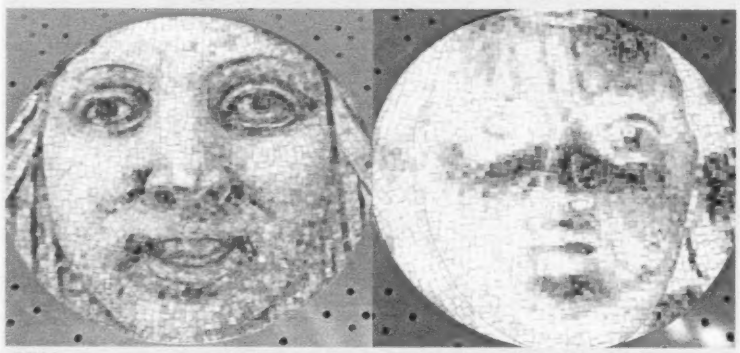
The award-winning TD Summer Reading Club, a free program for all children under the age of 12 in Toronto, is available at library branches across the city. The TD Summer Reading Club is made possible through the support of TD Bank Group and Toronto Public Library Foundation. It offers cool programs, games and activities, and lots of other neat things to see, read and do – both online and in branches.

The library is also offering teens their very own, newly expanded summer reading program. WORD OUT features a great website with an exciting array of book suggestions, offering teens the opportunity to socialize together and meet authors online, sharing ideas about books and reading. Teens can also attend special events at local branches. Many thanks to TD Bank Group, who also sponsor the teen program.

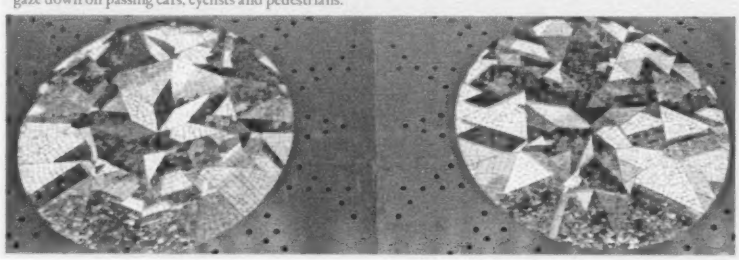
Program information is available in all branches. Keep up to date on all library news by signing up for the e-newsletter or following the library at any of the following:

torontopubliclibrary.ca
416-393-7131
Twitter @torontolibrary
Facebook.com/torontopubliclibrary

UNDERPASS ART



ON May 18, internationally acclaimed Toronto artist Luis Jacob joined Councillor Gord Perks and Councillor Ana Bailao to dedicate his new Dufferin Street Underpass public art project "Spirits of the Grotto". The work consists of 34 perforated metal panels bearing colourful mosaic eye-shaped designs that gaze down on passing cars, cyclists and pedestrians.



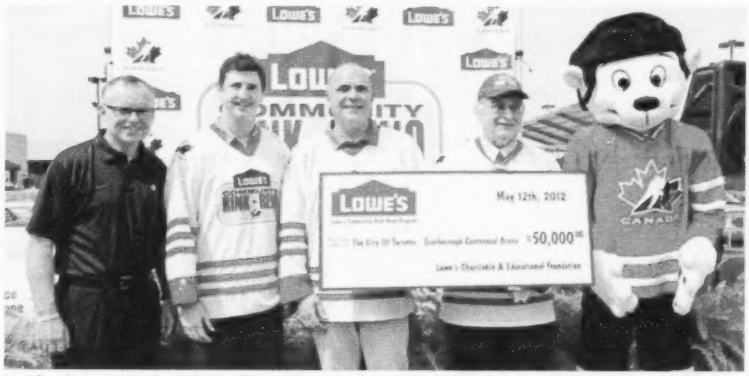
ON May 5, the Toronto Zoo introduced three new white lions, which will be permanent additions to the Zoo's African Savanna family. Unique to the Timbavati region of South Africa, these rare and beautiful cats have not been seen in the wild in over 15 years. They carry the recessive gene known as a colour inhibitor of the Kruger subspecies of lion (Panterha leo krugeri). With lion populations dwindling, they are now classified as a vulnerable species. Visitors can catch a daily Keeper Talk and help the Zoo bring awareness to the plight of the African lion in the wild.

Be sure to also visit the Zoo's polar bears. There are three adults, plus the adorable cub Hudson, who was born on October 11. Hudson's mother was unable to care for him, so staff in the Zoo's Wildlife Health Centre raised him. He now delights visitors with his non-stop play, pausing only to take a quick nap. Visitors can also enjoy spectacular views of these magnificent animals from the underwater viewing area. The Toronto Zoo works closely with Polar Bears International (PBI) to help conserve these vulnerable bears.

If you feel you need more 'cute', come to the Penguin House and admire the Zoo's African penguin chick Eldon, hatched on January 28 to Mom Puff and Dad Gozi. Two other chicks hatched on March 29 and 30. Since this species is endangered, the Zoo is thrilled at the arrival of these three little ones. The Toronto Zoo is committed to penguin conservation through a captive breeding program. The wild population has dropped 95 per cent over the last century. Recent estimates have been as low as 50,000 birds left in the wild, which is why the Toronto Zoo is committed to helping these feathered friends.

torontozoo.com
Facebook.com/thetorontozoo

Lowe's Canada supports Scarborough's Centennial Arena renovation



L to R: Bruce Newton - Hockey Canada, Director of Business Development, Kraby Armstrong - Former Team Canada Champion, Eymbert Vaandering - Vice President of Lowes Store Operations, Councillor Mike Del Grande - Ward 39 Scarborough-Agincourt, Puckster - Hockey Canada Mascot

ON May 12, the renovation plans for the Scarborough Centennial Arena got a big boost when Eymbert Vaandering, Vice President of Store Operations for Lowe's Canada, presented the City with a cheque for $50,000. The presentation took place at Lowe's Canada Scarborough West store on Warden Avenue.

City of Toronto staff were on hand for the day of events that also included hockey skill challenges, inflatable games, a free barbecue, family entertainment and a special appearance by Team Canada champ and pro hockey player Colby Armstrong.

On June 2 and 3, community volunteers and Lowe's employees and vendors pitched in to help the project partners, Lowe's Canada, Hockey Canada and the City of Toronto with renovations. The work included installing a new suspended, energy-efficient ceiling system in the arena. Volunteers also helped to build shelving and repaint walls in dressing rooms. Celebrity construction personality Bryan Baeumler was on hand to offer his expertise.

The final reveal and celebration is scheduled for early September.

lowes.ca/rinkreno

Discover Toronto – as if you were a visitor!

Drop by the Mobile Info Unit this summer to help you plan your time in Toronto.

WHETHER you are hosting out-of-town visitors or planning a 'staycation', experience the exciting festivals, events and attractions that Toronto has to offer.

For residents and the millions of overnight visitors to Toronto there are many resources available to help plan your summer activities:

- The City of Toronto's Festivals & Events Calendar (toronto.ca/eventcalendar) provides up-to-date listings for thousands of celebrations such as Luminato, the Toronto International Film Festival, War of 1812 Bicentennial events and more.
- Tourism Toronto's See Toronto app puts information about attractions, dining and shopping at your fingertips.
- City of Toronto Visitor Services (toronto.ca/visitors) and Tourism Toronto (seetorontonow.com) have information and links to area attractions and entertainment.
- The Toronto Information Desk (in the Ontario Travel Information Centre at 20 Dundas St. W.) or the INFOTOGO Mobile Unit have maps, information, resources and great advice to keep you and your visitors busy.
- The Tap into TO! Greeter program lets you experience a new area of the city with a local resident. Learn more at toronto.ca/tapto.

Whether you're a resident re-discovering Toronto or a first-time visitor to the city, Toronto is expecting you this summer!

toronto.ca/visitors

Toronto THEN&NOW

Princes' Gates at Exhibition Place

ON August 30, 1927, the gates that form the entrance to the CNE were officially opened by two princes: the Prince of Wales and his brother Prince George. Thus, the gates were named the Princes' Gates. The architecture firm of Chapman & Oxley designed the gates in the Beaux-Arts style. The statue on top is called the Goddess of Winged Victory. In her hand, she carries a single maple leaf. The statue had deteriorated over the years, so in 1987 it was replaced with a glass-reinforced polymer plastic copy.

(above) The Princes' Gates seen from inside the grounds of Exhibition Place, 1927

(below) The Princes' Gates seen from the outside, 2008

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